

CRITERIA FOR NOMINATING TRAILS INTO THE ARIZONA STATE TRAILS SYSTEM

I. PURPOSE

Arizona's State Trails System is invaluable, offering a diversity of quality nonmotorized trails that inspire people to experience the State's magnificent outdoor environment and cultural history.

The Arizona State Trails System has been established to recognize and promote non-motorized trails that are of special interest or significance to both Arizona's residents and visitors. Trails offer a wide variety of recreation opportunities. To provide for recognition of various types of trails, State Trail designations are categorized as Urban, Cross-State, Recreation, Interpretive, Historic and Paddle. The integrity of the managing agency's trail system and its management will not be changed by designation of the nominated trail as part of the State Trails System.

The State Trails System nomination and designation process is guided by the criteria, requirements, and procedures listed below. A complete nomination must include all requested information relating to the general and specific nomination criteria.

II. GENERAL NOMINATION CRITERIA

1. Nominations may be submitted for existing or proposed trails. **Proposed trails will only be considered if the planning process for the trail has been completed and is ready to start construction in the near future.** Proposed trails may be delisted from the State Trails System if they have not shown significant progress towards being built within five (5) years.
2. Nominated trails are not required to be State-owned or State-managed.
3. Trails that allow motorized recreational trail use are not eligible for the State Trails System.
4. Anyone may submit a nomination. However, documented concurrence of the involved landowner(s) and/or managing agency(s) must be provided with each nomination.
5. The nominated trail must be identified on an accurate map or maps that show its verified or proposed location.
6. GPS locations (latitude and longitude) of all trailheads (or put-in, put-out points for paddle trails) must be provided.
7. Length – while a minimum length is not specified for inclusion in the State Trails System, a trail less than a mile in length will need to demonstrate unique characteristics (i.e. interpretation, ADA, paddle trails etc).
8. The nomination and designation must be for the entire length of the specific single trail involved as established by the managing agency's official documentation (moved from a different place in the form)
9. Certain trails that connect to existing trails within the State Trails System may be eligible for Heritage Fund Grants without being nominated into the State Trails System. See page 4.

III. SPECIFIC NOMINATION CRITERIA BY TRAIL CATEGORY

A. URBAN TRAIL

1. The majority of the nominated trail or trail system must be within the incorporated boundaries of a municipality.
2. The trail must tie to an exterior trail system providing access from developed areas to undeveloped areas or must possess special interest or significance for the population of the urban area. This includes trails that connect significant cultural and recreational facilities within a community, connect the community to outlying recreational areas (i.e. regional parks, National Forests, State Parks etc) or provide a unique recreational experience.
3. The trail must be constructed, signed, and maintained to standards as set by the responsible municipality.
4. Trails that serve as an amenity to a small, specialized or private population do not meet the criteria of the State Trails System.
5. Pathways that exist within a transportation right of way (road or highway specific) or a trail which has more than 25% of its length along a highway or road corridor is not eligible for the State Trails System. These trails fall more in line with Transportation Enhancement projects under Arizona Department of Transportation funds and planning.

B. CROSS-STATE TRAIL

1. The trail(s) must traverse a distance of at least 100 miles.
2. The trail may consist of a number of trails or trail segments interconnected so as to provide a viable route from one part of the State to another.
3. The trail must have the ability to provide a link to other trails so that beginning and ending points are different.
4. The trail or trail segments must be constructed, signed, and maintained to standards as set by the managing agency(s).

C. RECREATION TRAIL

1. The trail must provide day-use or extended trail opportunities for any of a variety of non-motorized outdoor recreation activities, including but not limited to hiking, horseback riding, bicycling, backpacking, hiking or riding with pack stock, or cross-country skiing.
2. The trail must be of sufficient length to provide appropriate access to and facilitate the activities that are the basis for designation. Trails that serve as an amenity to a small or specialized population may not meet the criteria of the State Trails System.
3. The trail or trail segments must be constructed, signed, and maintained to standards as set by the managing agency(s).
4. Designation as a National Recreation Trail will automatically fulfill all criteria in this category.

D. INTERPRETIVE TRAIL

1. The theme and general methods of interpretation being utilized must be identified.
2. The trail must be available to the public during the majority of the use season.
3. The managing agency and/or land owner must have the capability to adequately serve the public and maintain any related facilities providing access, sanitation, parking, etc.
4. The trail or trail segments must be constructed, signed, and maintained to standards as set by the managing agency(s).

E. HISTORIC TRAIL

Discernible Historic Trail

1. The trail must provide day-use or extended trail opportunities for outdoor trail activities.
2. The description of the trail must be specific enough to assist in identifying and protecting historic routes, remnants, and artifacts for public knowledge and enjoyment.
3. Use of the trail must have had an effect on Arizona's culture with respect to a broad aspect of the State's historic or prehistoric past, such as trade, commerce, migration and settlement.
4. Nomination documentation must include notification record of landowners along the route.
5. Information should be provided to the user of the trail's historic importance and how to protect the resource and its context while enjoying the site.
6. Identify a contact person, agency or organization that will act as curator or steward of trail's history.

Non-Discernible Historic Trail

1. The trail need not currently exist as a discernible trail, but must be sufficiently known to allow for documentation and evaluation.
2. The description of the trail must be specific enough to assist in identifying and protecting historic routes, remnants and artifacts.
3. Use of the trail must have had an effect on Arizona's culture with respect to a broad aspect of the State's historic or prehistoric past, such as trade, commerce, migration and settlement.
4. There must be a contact person, agency or organization that will act as curator or steward of trail's history.

F. PADDLE TRAIL

1. Paddle trails must have a designated section of a waterway with designated put-in and put-out access points.
2. Paddle trails must be on a waterway, or designated section of a waterway, that does not allow motorized traffic.

G. TRAIL SYSTEMS

1. A trail system must list each individual trail at the time of nomination. When additional trails are added to the system, an agency must amend their nomination to include the additional trails.
2. A least 80% of the system nomination must satisfy the relevant criteria.

IV. DESIGNATION TO THE STATE TRAILS SYSTEM

1. All nominations will be reviewed by the Arizona State Committee on Trails (ASCOT) for completeness, appropriateness, and other factors such as general public safety.
2. The ASCOT recommendation will be forwarded to the Arizona State Parks Board for final approval of the nominated.

State Trails System Connector Trail Policy:

Certain trails that connect to existing trails within the State Trails System may be eligible for Heritage Fund Grants without being nominated into the State Trails System. These trails must meet the following criteria:

1. The primary purpose of the connector trail must be to connect the trail user to the system trail.
2. The connector trail must be less than 3 miles in length.
3. The connector trail must be maintained to the same standards submitted with the original trail system nomination.
4. If the connector trail is managed/controlled by a different entity than the one who manages the system trail, the entity that manages the system trail needs to acknowledge and approve of the connector trail. A maintenance plan must be established for the trail.



Arizona State Trails System Nomination Form

FOR NONMOTORIZED TRAILS

Please Note: *State Trails System
Nominations must be received (NOT
POSTMARKED) by:*

5:00 p.m. Friday, Sept. 1, 2011

Please fill out completely **AND SEND COMPLETED NOMINATION FORM ALONG WITH SIX (6) COPIES OF COMPLETE NOMINATION AND ALL SUPPORTING MATERIALS TO THE ADDRESS ON PAGE TEN.** Much of the information you provide will appear in the State Trails Guide. Be sure to answer questions completely.

Trail name and/or number: _____

Provide an overall description the trail (uses, location, trail highlights including general & historic, points of interest, streams & other natural water, other special or interesting items) **This description will be used in the Arizona State Trails Guide – you should write the description to be interesting to potential trail users.**

Part of Arizona Trail? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Trail is: ☐ Existing ☐ Proposed/Planned

Proposed trails will only be considered if the planning process for the trail has been completed and is ready to start construction in the near future.

If trail is proposed, outline the expected timeframe for beginning construction

Contact information that will be included in the State Trails Guide and given to public inquiries about this trail:

Managing agency : _____

Address: _____

Phone (_____ **)** _____

Web address (for users to find more information) _____

Contact information that will be used by Arizona State Parks regarding this nomination:

Contact Name:

Managing agency : _____
Address (if different than above): _____

Phone () _____ FAX () _____
E-mail address _____

Are motor vehicles allowed for maintenance or emergency purposes?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Is this trail open for recreational motorized trail use at any time?

☐ Yes ☐ No (if the answer is yes, the trail is not eligible for inclusion into the State Trails System)

If you answered yes to either question above, please describe conditions:

Allowable Trail uses: Hiking ☐ Equestrian use ☐ Mountain biking ☐
Road bicycling ☐ X-country skiing ☐ Pack animal ☐ Boating/Floating ☐
Other: _____

Mileage: _____ Existing _____ Proposed

Layout: Loop trail ☐ One-way trail ☐

3) Trail type (see definitions listed on page 1): Cross-state ☐ Recreation ☐
Interpretive ☐ Historic ☐ Urban ☐ Water Trail ☐

Trail condition (include potential hazards): _____

Describe trail signage, such as trailhead, directional, and interpretive signage where appropriate. Describe how often the trail is inspected to ensure signage (including cairns, posts, etc.) remains intact. _____

Linkage to other trails: _____

Trailhead facilities (check all that are applicable):

Parking ☐ Restrooms ☐ Campgrounds ☐ Horse staging ☐
Picnic Area ☐ Boat ramp ☐ Trailhead water ☐

Nearest communities (and mileage to each): _____

Nearby public campgrounds:

Recommended seasons of use (check all that apply):

☐All ☐Winter ☐Spring ☐Summer ☐Fall

Include closure dates, if applicable

Accurately describe directions to trailhead or access point. Include identifiable features such as landmarks, mileposts, signage, nearest major highways, mountain ranges, rivers, historic sites, etc. **This information will be provided in the State Trails Guide so directions should be detailed enough to get recreational users to trailheads or access points.**

Elevation changes: Include high and low elevation for the trail.

Highest elevation Lowest elevation

U.S.G.S. 7.5" topographic map(s) name(s): _____

Trailhead GPS location (include all trailheads that access the trail)

If available provide GPS coordinates along the trail (can send in a digital file accompanying the nomination.

Other Maps/Info:

List any special consideration of importance to trail users (i.e. fees, hours, accessibility, cautions etc)

Is a fee required for trail use? Yes ☐ No ☐

Is this trail ADA? Yes ☐ No ☐

Other considerations

Briefly describe the design, construction and maintenance standards of the trail. Include tread width, shared or separate right-of-way, surfacing, erosion control measures, any special features associated with the Americans with Disabilities Act, special safety features or considerations, or water trail access points. If Arizona State Parks or members of the review Committee are unfamiliar with the trail standards/guidelines used by managing agency a copy may be requested.

Provide an accurate map of trail. The map should be of a scale appropriate to the length and type of trail. Include location of items described in **Trail Highlights** above. The attached Canelo Hills Passage map is a good example of this requirement. A 7.5" Quadrangle map may also be used or included. The map shall identify, at a minimum, the following items:

1. Map size: 8 1/2" x 11". If necessary, use more than one 8 1/2" x 11" sheet.
2. North arrow, scale, and date prepared.
3. Length of trail segment (Start to End point).
4. Identify trail/road access to trail project.
5. List any future trail/linkages planned.
6. Include photographs of either the existing trail or land where the trail will be developed.

If this trail is being nominated as a Historic Trail (per the criteria in the attached guide), please complete the following; if it is not nominated as a Historic Trail please continue on to the Authorization Statement.

Historic Trail: ☐ Discernible ☐ Non-discernible

Attach a minimum of a one-page historic narrative, along with supporting documentation. Identify a contact person, agency, or organization who will act as curator or steward of the trail's history. Include name, address, phone and fax number.

If this trail is being nominated as a paddle trail, please complete the following:

☐ Whitewater, class of water

☐ Quiet water

Access Points

Are there distinguished or separated access for motorized and nonmotorized craft? If yes, please indicate how the uses are separated.

Other General Evaluation Criteria

Are there seasonal closures to the waterway? If yes, explain.

Are there any known water quality issues? If yes, explain.

Are there any known hazards on the water?

All applicants must complete this section.

AUTHORIZATION STATEMENT

Photocopy this form as needed for each land owner/managing agency, and attach all forms to this application.

If more than one landowner or managing agency is involved with the trail, this statement must be completed and signed by each owner or representative and attached. Unless the managing agency or owner requests otherwise, all trails in the system are described in the Arizona State Trails Guide.

I, _____,

Name of landowner/managing agency representative

on behalf _____,

Landowner/managing agency

authorize this trail to be nominated into the Arizona State Trails System. I understand that designation to the State Trails System in no way infringes upon the management or responsibilities of this landowner or agency to operate and maintain this trail.

Signature of land owner/managing agency representative

SEND SIX (6) COMPLETE PHOTOCOPIES OF COMPLETED NOMINATION AND ALL SUPPORTING MATERIALS WITH THIS ORIGINAL TO THE ADDRESS BELOW. DO NOT STAPLE OR BIND THE NOMINATION.

**AZ State Committee On Trails
Arizona State Parks
1300 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
FAX: (602) 542-4180**

Parker Canyon Lake to Patagonia

